

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A removably replaceable label comprising:

an elongated sheet having a front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof; said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto, an adhesive reducing coating being applied to said adhesive coating adjacent to said first end of said elongated sheet,

wherein said sheet has a score extending a predetermined distance from said one of said first end and said second end toward the other one of said one of said first end and said second end.

Please cancel claim 2.

5. (Amended) The label according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied to said adhesive coating in a location that is spaced from said top edge and said [bosom] bottom edge.

6. (Amended) The label according to claim [2]1, wherein said sheet is

made from an uniaxially oriented material.

7. (Amended) The label according to claim [2]1, wherein said sheet is oriented in a direction that said score extends.

10. (Amended) The label according to claim [2]1, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is a varnish.

26. (Amended) A label comprising:

an elongated sheet having a [from] front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet being made from an uniaxially oriented material, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof, said sheet has a score extending a predetermined distance from one of said first end and said second end toward the other one of said one of said first end and said second end; and said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto.

38. (Amended) A medical container comprising:

an outer surface; and

a removable replaceable readherable label comprising:

an elongated sheet being adhesively connected to said outer surface, said elongated sheet having a front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof;

 said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto, an adhesive reducing coating being applied to said adhesive coating adjacent to said first end of said elongated sheet,

wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending therefrom, thereby forming a new first end.

Please cancel claim 43.

44. (Amended) The container according to claim 38, [wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end,] wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied on said new first end.

Please cancel claim 48.

49. (Amended) The container according to claim [48]45, wherein said

sheet is oriented in a direction that said score extends.

Please add the following new claims:

52. The label according to claim 1, wherein said removable portion includes the entire top edge and said remainder portion includes the entire bottom edge.

53. A removably replaceable label comprising:

an elongated sheet having a front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof; said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto, an adhesive reducing coating being applied to said adhesive coating adjacent to said first end of said elongated sheet,

wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end.

54. The label according to claim 53, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied on said new first end.

55. The label according to claim 53, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied to said adhesive coating in a location that is spaced from said top edge and said bottom edge.

56. The label according to claim 54, wherein said sheet is made from an uniaxially oriented material.

57. The label according to claim 54, wherein said sheet is oriented in a direction that said score extends.

58. The label according to claim 53, wherein said sheet is made from an olefin film.

59. The label according to claim 53, wherein said adhesive is an emulsion acrylic adhesive.

60. The label according to claim 53, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is a varnish.

61. The label according to claim 53, wherein said removable portion includes the entire top edge and said remainder portion includes the entire bottom

edge.

62. A removably replaceable label comprising:

an elongated sheet having a front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof; said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto, an adhesive reducing coating being applied to said adhesive coating adjacent to said first end of said elongated sheet,

wherein said sheet is made from an uniaxially oriented material.

63. The label according to claim 62, wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end.

64. The label according to claim 62, wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied on said new first end.

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65. The label according to claim 62, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied to said adhesive coating in a location that is spaced from said top edge and said bottom edge.

66. The label according to claim 62, wherein said sheet is oriented in a direction that said score extends.

67. The label according to claim 62, wherein said sheet is made from an olefin film.

68. The label according to claim 62, wherein said adhesive is an emulsion acrylic adhesive.

69. The label according to claim 62, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is a varnish.

70. The label according to claim 62, wherein said removable portion includes the entire top edge and said remainder portion includes the entire bottom edge.

71. A medical container comprising:

an outer surface; and

a removable replaceable readherable label comprising:

an elongated sheet being adhesively connected to said outer surface, said elongated sheet having a front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof;

said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto, an adhesive reducing coating being applied to said adhesive coating adjacent to said first end of said elongated sheet,

wherein said sheet has a score extending a predetermined distance from said one of said first end and said second end toward the other one of said one of said first end and said second end.

72. The container according to claim 71, wherein said indicia includes

information selected from a biological product and a radioactive medical product.

73. The container according to claim 71, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied adjacent to said first end and to a strip of said adhesive coating extending for a predetermined distance toward said second end of said elongated

sheet.

74. The container according to claim 73, wherein said strip of said adhesive coating extends from said first end to said second end.

75. The container according to claim 74, wherein said strip is spaced from said top edge and said bottom edge.

76. The container according to claim 71, wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied on said new first end.

77. The container according to claim 76, wherein said score is substantially coextensive with a boundary on said rear surface between said adhesive coating and said adhesive reducing coating.

78. The container according to claim 77, wherein said sheet is made from an uniaxially oriented material.

79. The container according to claim 71, wherein said sheet is oriented in a direction that said score extends.

80. The container according to claim 71, wherein said container further comprises a plurality of removable replaceable readherable labels adhesively connected to said outer surface.

81. The container according to claim 71, wherein said sheet further comprises a plurality of removable portions.

82. The label according to claim 71, wherein said removable portion includes the entire top edge and said remainder portion includes the entire bottom edge.

83. A medical container comprising:

an outer surface; and

a removable replaceable readherable label comprising:

an elongated sheet being adhesively connected to said outer surface, said elongated sheet having a front surface, a rear surface and a first end, a second end, a top edge and a bottom edge, said sheet comprising of a removable portion and a remainder portion, said removable portion and said remainder portion each having identifying indicia printed on a front surface thereof;

said rear surface having an adhesive coating applied thereto, an adhesive reducing coating being applied to said adhesive coating adjacent to said first end of said elongated sheet,

wherein said sheet is made from an uniaxially oriented material.

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84. The container according to claim 83, wherein said indicia includes information selected from a biological product and a radioactive medical product.

85. The container according to claim 83, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied adjacent to said first end and to a strip of said adhesive coating extending for a predetermined distance toward said second end of said elongated sheet.

86. The container according to claim 85, wherein said strip of said adhesive coating extends from said first end to said second end.

87. The container according to claim 86, wherein said strip is spaced from said top edge and said bottom edge.

88. The container according to claim 83, wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending therefrom, thereby forming a new first end.

89. The container according to claim 83, wherein said first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end, wherein said adhesive reducing coating is applied on said new first end.

90. The container according to claim 83, wherein said sheet has a score extending a predetermined distance from said one of said first end and said second

end toward the other one of said one of said first end and said second end.

91. The container according to claim 90, wherein said score is substantially coextensive with a boundary on said rear surface between said adhesive coating and said adhesive reducing coating.

92. The container according to claim 90, wherein said sheet is oriented in a direction that said score extends.

93. The container according to claim 83, wherein said container further comprises a plurality of removable replaceable readherable labels adhesively connected to said outer surface.

94. The container according to claim 83, wherein said sheet further comprises a plurality of removable portions.

95. The label according to claim 83, wherein said removable portion includes the entire top edge and said remainder portion includes the entire bottom edge.

REMARKS

By the above amendments, claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 26, 38, 44 and 49 have been amended. Claims 2, 43 and 48 have been canceled. Claims 52-95 have been

added. Claims 1, 3-42, 44-47, 49-95 are pending. Reconsideration and re-issuance of the above-identified U.S. Patent No. 5,704,648, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. Independent claim 38 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 43. In addition, Applicants have added new claim 53, which corresponds to originally patented dependent claim 3, rewritten in independent form. Likewise, Applicants have added new independent claim 62, which corresponds to originally patented claim 1 and claim 6. Newly added independent claim 71 corresponds to originally patented claim 45, rewritten in independent form. Finally, new independent claim 83 corresponds to the subject matter of originally patented claims 38 and 47.

Applicants conducted a thorough review of the file history of U.S. Patent No. 5,704,648 because they became aware of a potential infringer. During this investigation, Applicants became more fully aware of the teachings of European Patent Application 0 283 064 A1, which had been made of record during the prosecution of the application that became the '648 patent. Unfortunately, after a careful review, Applicants believe that they inadvertently claimed more than they had a right to claim with respect to independent claims 1 and 38 only, thereby rendering the '648 patent partly inoperative.

The '064 European patent application is directed towards a label that includes a detachable part. More specifically, label 2 is comprised of a first label part 3 and a second label part 4. An area 5 is located in the corner of the second

label part. Label parts 3 and 4 are separated by a perforation line 6.

According to the '064 patent specification, a strip of basic material 14 includes a carrier paper 9, onto which a layer of silicone 10, an adhesive layer 11 and a layer of label paper 12 are applied. Later, a device 17 is used to reduce the adhesive force of adhesive layer 11 in area 16, thereby causing a reduction of the adhesive force of adhesive layer 11 in area 16. This same application is then repeated on area 19 of adhesive layer 11. Thus, the adhesive force of the adhesive layer of area 19, which is a part of area 16, is almost completely disappeared.

Area 16 corresponds to label part 4, and area 19 corresponds to area 5. The adhesive force in areas 16, 19 is reduced to ease the removing from the bottle of label part 4, while leaving first label part 3 on the bottle. Both label parts 3 and 4 have information printed thereon relative to the medicine contained within bottle 1.

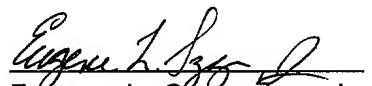
However, a careful review of the '064 European patent application reveals that this published application neither teaches nor suggests the subject matter of dependent claims 2, 3 or 6. More specifically, the '064 European patent application neither teaches nor suggests that the sheet has a score extending a predetermined distance from one of the first end and the second end toward the other one of the first end and the second end, as required by amended independent claim 1. The '064 European patent application also neither teaches nor suggests that the first end includes a tab portion extending from the removable portion thereof, thereby forming a new first end, as required by dependent claim 3. Finally, the '064 European patent application fails to teach or suggest that the sheet is made from a uniaxially oriented material, as required by dependent claim 6. The

subject matter of one of these dependent claims has been incorporated into the amended independent claims 1 and 38, and into newly added independent claims 53, 62, 71 and 83.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to re-issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Eugene L. Szczecina, Jr.
Registration No. 35,029
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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DARBY & DARBY, P.C.
805 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 527-7700